

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
SITUATION REPORT #08  
Water Shortage Emergency  
Tuesday, February 20, 2001 – 0900 Hours**

*This report contains the latest information for the period up to Friday, February 16, 2001. Revisions are in bold.  
Please refer to previous situation reports for past information. Note: Next situation Report –February 28, 2001.*

**Situation:**

The South Florida Water Management District has declared Phase II water shortage restrictions for Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Collier, Lee and Hendry Counties. Phase III water restrictions have been imposed for agricultural users in the Lake Okeechobee Basin and the Indian Prairie Basin, Phase II water restrictions for non-agricultural users in the Lake Okeechobee Basin and modified Phase II restrictions for Orange County.

**WEATHER CONDITIONS:**

**Short Term:**

Continued dry and warm weather is expected with minimal or light rain.

**Long Term:**

Continued chance of below average scattered rainfall through March. However, April and May are expected to be near average rainfall.

**WATER CONDITIONS:**

**Kissimmee Chain of Lakes:**

Upper Kissimmee received 0.00 inches of rain this week. The water level in Lake Kissimmee was 48.87 ft NGVD at the beginning of the week and 48.86 ft NGVD at the end of the week. The Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (Myrtle, Alligator, Mary Jane, Gentry, East Tohopekaliga and Tohopekaliga) showed some decline in water level. The average weekly decline was 0.04 ft.

The Lower Kissimmee area received 0.00 inches of rain during this period. The water level in the C-40 canal was 19.54 ft NGVD at the beginning of the week and 20.87 ft NGVD at the end of the week. The C-41 canal was 18.82 ft NGVD at the beginning of the week and 19.88 ft NGVD at the end of the week. The water level in the C-41A canal was 22.75 ft NGVD at the beginning of the week and 25.01 ft NGVD at the end of the week. The water level in Lake Istokpoga measured at the S68 structure was 37.43 ft NGVD at the beginning of the week and 32.09 ft NGVD at the end of the week. Lake Istokpoga was below its regulatory schedule.

**Lake Okeechobee Service Area**

Lake Okeechobee received 0.00 inches of rain. The water level in Lake Okeechobee was 10.85 ft NGVD at the beginning of the week and 10.79 ft NGVD at the end of the week. The Lake was under Supply Side Management. Net outflow from the Lake was approximately 7,784 ac-ft through all structures. Of the major structures, S354 released approximately 1,039 ac-ft; S308 released approximately 803 ac-ft; C-5A released approximately 670 ac-ft; S352 released approximately 1,036 ac-ft; and S351 released approximately 1,904 ac-ft of water.

**Water Conservation Areas (WCAs)**

The Water Conservation Areas received 0.00 inches during this period. The water level in WCA 1 was 15.77 ft NGVD at the beginning of the week and 15.54 ft NGVD at the end of the week. WCA 1 was below its regulatory schedule during this period. The water level in WCA 2 was 10.87 ft NGVD at the beginning of the week and 10.66 ft NGVD at the end of the week. WCA 2 was below its regulatory schedule during this period. The water level in WCA

3 was 9.28 ft NGVD at the beginning of the week and 9.20 ft NGVD at the end of the week. WCA 3 was below its regulatory schedule during this period. Estimated average ground elevations for WCA 1, WCA 2, and WCA 3 are 14.0 ft, 11.0 ft and 7.5 ft NGVD, respectively. Structure S5AS released approximately 596 ac-ft of water from WCA 1 to the north via the L-8 canal.

#### **Upper East Coast**

The Upper East Coast received 0.00 inches of rain during this period. The water level in the C-23 canal was 15.33 ft NGVD at the beginning of the week and 15.40 ft NGVD at the end of the week. The water level in the C-24 canal was 15.76 ft NGVD at the beginning of the week and 15.62 ft NGVD at the end of the week. The water level in the C-25 canal was 14.52 ft NGVD at the beginning of the week and 14.73 ft NGVD at the end of the week.

#### **Lower West Coast**

The Lower West Coast received 0.04 inches of rain during the period. Discharge from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee canal through structure S77 was approximately 1,883 ac-ft.

#### **OPERATIONAL STATUS:**

The District's EOC remains at a level 2 (partial) activation. The Citizen Information Line is activated during normal business hours (0830 hours to 1630 hours).

#### **TEAM REPORTS:**

##### **WATER OPERATIONS:**

- G-75 and G-76 structures failed due to high lead differentials across the structures in support of water shortage deliveries. Temporary plugs were installed, however, agricultural and tribe users will be temporarily impacted.
- Assessed previous week's Lake Okeechobee supply side management allocation performance and developed allocation for next week.
- Maintained Operations Water Shortage Line.

##### **Operation Support:**

- Six (6) submersible pumps delivered to S-351. All bulkheads (7 each) were delivered.
- Installed and tested one bulkhead with 2 electric submersible pumps at Lake Okeechobee structure, S-351 and functional test was successful.
- Manatee screens for each structure to be delivered 2/21/01.

#### **WATER SHORTAGE IMPLEMENTATION**

##### **Variance/Temporary Pumps**

- To date, received 463 variance requests – 213 requests have been approved.

##### **Compliance/Enforcement**

- To date, 2,893 warnings and 573 tickets issued.

##### **Modified Water Supply Delivery Plans**

- Revised reference stage for Lake Okeechobee to 9.52' to account for non-agricultural releases effective 1/19/2001.
- Developed Lower Indian Prairie basin operation plan with the Tribe and other competing basin users.
- Conducted weekly status update with Ft. Myers and Lee County Utilities and DEP.

### **Water Use Evaluation**

- **Completed field and site inspections of Lake Okeechobee Utilities and continue to coordinate the development of contingency plans.**
- Prepared biweekly pumpage analysis and variance reports for posting to external website.

### **MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

- Concluded investigation of sample location and analysis of chloride data at the OLGA water plant because of its effect on water supply releases from Lake Okeechobee.
- **Developed information for and delivered January Water Shortage Conditions Report to the Governing Board.**
- **Documenting flows for Lake Okeechobee Service Area.**
- Documenting ground water levels and water discharge in LEC and WCAs.
- **Documenting utility pumpage statistics.**

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION**

- Meeting with State, Division of Emergency Management and Area 7 County Emergency Management Directors, to discuss water shortage issues.
- Meeting with Broward County EOC and municipalities to discuss water shortage issues.
- Participated in presenting water shortage information to the SE Florida Utility Council.
- **Conduct Compliance/Enforcement Workshop with**
  - a) Palm Beach County enforcement personnel
  - b) Okeechobee County enforcement personnel
  - c) Northern Broward County, and
  - d) Southern Broward County
- Conduct weekly teleconference with service centers.
- Participated in drought teleconference with Florida Division of Emergency Management, DEP and all Water Management Districts.
- Finalize Weekly Water Watch website format, contents and guidelines.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

- On 2/15, the GB approved the cooperative agreement and three-party contract language with the FFWCC to conduct the Lake Istokpoga drawdown project.
- Prepared a summary of environmental conditions for the Water Conservation Areas to assess potential for short term and long term impacts and times to recovery as these systems continue to dry.
- **Assessing methods to contain waters in the rim canal from backflows or backpumping into Lake Okeechobee from the EAA, if the opportunity arises.**

### **Citizen Outreach**

- Citizen Information phone line received approximately **11,445** calls.
- Averaging **626** visitors per day to District's WEB site.

### **Finance/Procurement**

- **Awarded purchase order for the chain link security fencing at S-351 and S-352.**

### **GIS**

- **Developed street maps for Citizen Information Phone Bank, service centers and county municipalities.**

## **LEGAL**

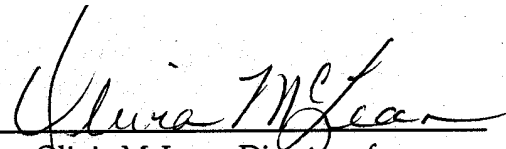
- **Drafted legal issues summary for WCAs and canal operations during drought.**
- **Meeting with Palm Beach County Officials regarding legal authorities for enforcement.**
- **Governing Board concurred with Emergency Order for temporary recession of existing Lake Istokpoga Water Shortage Orders - 2/15/2001.**
- **Governing Board concurred with Emergency Authorization of Activities and Works to detain water from lake Istokpoga - 2/15/2001.**
- **Drafted Seminole Tribe Work Plan provisions regarding water shortage.**
- **Assist enforcement team with legal processes for enforcement.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- **Prepared report to DEP on district-wide drought conditions.**
- **Approximately 75 media calls and contacts.**
- **Media buy of television and radio stations continue.**
- **WH20 Video and conservation literature sent to 500 elementary, middle and senior high schools in Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Hendry, Lee and Collier Counties.**
- **Coordinating district-wide distribution of water restrictions publications with service center directors.**
- **Coordinating water restrictions presentations with service center directors to the public.**

**Signed:**

  
Joe Taylor, Deputy Executive Director  
Water Resources Operations

  
Olivia McLean, Director of  
Emergency Management

## **Distribution:**

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